

Ed Weintrob / When Mr. became Miss, a weekly was born

As I bicycled past the newsstand on Avenue M, a paper looking something like the National Enquirer caught my eye, a busty woman sharing its cover with the headline, "Boro Mr. became Miss." I stopped, dinged the tone of a newspaper in 1964, and rode off with the first issue of the Brooklyn Times, a borough-wide weekly that was the brainchild of Ralph Bonjourno. A year earlier, Ralph had been production manager and sports editor of the Brooklyn Eagle in its final incarnation. Now, he was editing a tabloid that knew

how to attract readers (subsequent issues would do it without sex-change stories).

An appliance store under the el on McDonald Avenue in Gravesend doubted as the office of Brooklyn Times. But Ralph didn't work there (neither did the publisher, Lou Bruno, who lived next door); Ralph was based at his day job on El Tiempo, a Spanish-language daily edited by Stanley Ross, one of the Eagle's last editors.

This wasn't your typical news paper office, and the Brooklyn Times (no relation to a paper of the



same name published in the '80s by the Home Reporter) was certainly not your typical news paper.

What it lacked in

capital, it made up for in soul.

I started writing the Brooklyn Philatelist, a weekly column that was both newsy and full of Brooklyn advocacy. When the U.S. was about to issue a commemorative stamp honoring Winston Churchill,

whose mother Jennie Jerome was born on Henry Street, I argued that its "First Day" release should be in Brooklyn (the Post Office instead chose Fulton, Missouri, site of Churchill's family home in the U.S.).

My School of the column evolved into a multi-page Brooklyn Times Teener section; I'd spend most of my weekends writing, editing and laying out the Teener, then my mother's father would drive me to Gravesend as my deadline — Sunday night — approached.

The Teener featured school news,

pop star news, contests (we got sever-

al hundred coupons for a Rolling Stones ticket give-away), teen advice and lots of teen-oriented politics (this was the '60s, after all). I wrote "teen-a-torials" about civil rights, Vietnam (in 1965, we had big protesters of U.S. intervention in Vietnam in our schools). We interviewed the teen children of prominent politicians like mayoral candidate Lindsay.

At dawn Thursdays, I'd rush to the newsstand at the Flatbush-Nos trand junction to be there as the delivery truck arrived, anxious to see my section printed and to delight when one of my stories was promoted, in "Boro Mr. Becomes Miss" style, on the front page.

And for this, they even paid me!

The Brooklyn Times, which was the first newspaper Brooklyn-wide to insist on a daily, which I had the advantage of being a great editor and knowing the technical ropes), lasted four years. After temporarily publishing on a daily basis during a Manhattan newspaper strike (including, for a time, an almost-daily Teener section), Ralph and Lou got the idea that they could become the new Eagle, a real daily, and started

raising money. But it wasn't to be.

A chance encounter with Ralph Bonjourno in the mid-'70s would help facilitate the birth of The Brooklyn Papers, a story we'll leave for another day. The Brooklyn Times was Ralph, Lou, and, and his newspaper-reading and writing at in the service of Brooklyn should not be forgotten in the borough's history. In my book, he was the equal of any of the Eagle's great editors.

Ed Weintrob is founder and president of The Brooklyn Papers, now celebrating its 25th year. Write him at EdWeintrob@BrooklynPapers.com

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'Tower sale sparks park talk

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

The first question to jump into most peoples' minds when the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York announced its intention to take offers on 360 Furman St., was how the 1 million-square-foot building would fit into the planned Brooklyn Bridge Park.

"There's lots of interest on every level no matter what happens to that building," said Jim Moagan, executive director of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation, a subsidiary of the Empire State Development Corporation charged with building the 1.3-mile commercial and recreational development spanning the DUMBO and Brooklyn Heights waterfronts.

While Moagan declined to conjecture on any potential use or ownership of the park-planners, he added, "We're meeting internally with our city and state partners to see what makes sense and to what level our involvement would be."

As to whether the hotel planned for Pier 1 near Old Fulton Street could be shifted to the Furman Street building, several people close to the plan were skeptical.

While the Pier 1 building would be quiet, one person said there was not enough public transportation near the building at Atlantic and Furman to support the hotel, citing the proximity of the A line's High Street station and a potential connection through Furman Street from the Clark Street 2, 3 line to the Pier 1 site. Others said the 360 Furman St. building was simply too large and lacked parking.

Just what interest 360 Furman St. will generate has yet to be seen, although housing has been estimated as a pretty good



The Jehovah's Witnesses building at 360 Furman St., as seen from the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway.

fit by some. Housing, however, is also out, that presenting the least of which is that almost all of the parking at Pier 1 will revert to the park. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey has indicated that it will not renew the Watchtower Society's parking lease, creating enormous limitations for potential residential use.

Robert Alexander, a spokesman for the Watchtower Society, said the ground floor of the building would contain loading docks that could fit about 18 trucks, which could be converted into parking, but probably not enough.

"[Parking] would probably pose a challenge to any possible development of the site," Alexander said.

Some economic development sources theorized that those challenges could give

elected officials and community leaders leverage over the private sector should they try to commercialize it.

Brooklyn Heights Councilman David Yassky was very forward with what contribution for Brooklyn Bridge Park he would expect from a private-sector user of the building.

"I would very much like to see a portion of the revenue go toward the park maintenance," Yassky said. "I think one of the best questions about the park is how well the funding will work."

Yassky noted that the financial analysis of the 20 percent of the park set aside for maintenance of the park instead of a capital project as it is traditionally used.

"That idea you could use on a smaller scale," Yassky said of 360 Furman St. He added that he thought the TIF (Tax Increment Financing) could work for maintenance of the park instead of a capital project as it is traditionally used.

"It would just be a new way of using [TIF]," he said.

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No primary for S'Park's Gonzalez

By Patrick Gallahue

The Brooklyn Papers

Perennial Sunset Park candidate George Martinez will likely forgo a rematch with Councilwoman Sara Gonzalez in favor of taking a job with state Attorney General Eliot Spitzer.

Just a few weeks ago, Martinez was in D'Asaro's office, trying out his campaign rhetoric, but he did not file with the Campaign Finance Board for matching funds by their deadline this week. Gonzalez, in May, that he would file with the CFB.

Martinez, 29, did not return calls for comment but the attorney general's office confirmed that he had been hired to work as a community liaison in the intergovernmental Affairs Unit.

Meanwhile, Republican Daniel Maio, 42, a Taiwanese-born mapmaker from Queens who briefly served as Feburary's special election for the Bay Ridge council seat, has shifted his focus north to run against Gonzalez.

"It seemed to be more appropriate because [redistricting] had passed," he says of his switch of Astoria. "Martinez is of the 38th District, which includes Sunset Park and Red Hook."

The redrawn district is



George Martinez (left) will not run, while Daniel Maio will try to gain the Asian vote in Sunset Park council race.

about 23 percent Asian.

One of Sunset Park's most influential Asian leaders, Paul Mak, head of the Brooklyn Chinese American Association, endorsed Gonzalez in her

last campaign — a special election to replace convicted former Councilman Angel Rodriguez — last November. Gonzalez said she anticipates Mak's support once again.

"We live in a democracy,"

Gonzalez said of Maio's challenge. "And anyone can run." Maio, 42, has also made a name for himself as a tough resident and state Senator in Queens, has received the support of the county Republican, Conservative and Independence parties for this race.

Hy-Sing, Gonzalez's aide, The Sun's colorful, albeit short

campaign last February, was cut short when he was thrown off the ballot because he failed to indicate on his petitions that he was running in the 43rd District.

Maio should make it onto the ballot this time since he has no primary challengers. Martinez's appearance without a ballot makes it likely that Gonzalez, too, will not face a primary in September.

Martinez, however, also did not file for matching funds in the special election, arousing a great deal of suspicion. He finished third, however, with other three names: "Best Future" for Martinez, "Best Qualified" for Gonzalez and "Education First" for Rodriguez.

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president Edward Rodriguez.

Many credited ballot position

ing with Gonzalez's victory.

In an extremely unusual occurrence the special election coincided with the general election, so despite all three candidates being Democrats, they appeared at the bottom of party lines with narrow, non-partisan labels.

Many Democrat clubs that he was funded by particular interests. He finished third, with about 4,000 votes, in the three-way race behind Gonzalez and former school board

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Davis challenged

By Patrick Gallahue

The Brooklyn Papers

It was never a matter of if Fort Greene-Prospect Heights Councilman James Davis would get challenged for re-election, but by whom.

It seemed as if Letitia James

might take another shot, and

then there were rumors that state Sen. Velmanette Montgomery was considering a run. James declined to comment and Montgomery told The Brooklyn Papers she thought about it but decided to sit out of this year's race.

Instead, three far less threatening challengers threw their

hats into the ring this week when they filed for matching funds with the Campaign Finance Board.

Assemblywoman Wasserman, Orthodox Aszkow and Anthony Herbert all filed with the CFB for 4-0-1 matching funds for the 2003 35th District race.

Despite having three potential primary challengers, Davis, the reformer who has butted heads over and over with the Brooklyn Democratic boss, Assemblyman Clarence Norman Jr., has chosen to focus his attacks on Herbert, claiming the first-time candidate is running a negative campaign by criticizing his public feats.

"If I don't beat him by 10,000 votes I'll leave the country," Davis said.

Herbert, a former resident of Prospect Heights and a producer of a video magazine program on WNYE, was the first to announce a challenge to Davis, claiming that the councilman's plan battles will not end with Council Speaker Gifford Miller, but limited his ability to represent the district.

"We just don't need to be in a position where we can't keep building," Herbert told the Brooklyn Eagle. "And James Davis' position as councilman hinders that growth because he closes the doors of opportunity."

Davis, however, challenged his neighbor on the same squabbles that affected his ability to represent the area and he boasted that his collaboration with Mayor Michael Bloomberg on a major Downtown rezoning plan, announced last month, has eased the district's traffic dilemmas like the possible return of B54 bus service to Jay Street.

"I'm going to work for every single vote including [Herbert's] loved ones," said Davis, sounding more like Muhammad Ali than a former police officer.

"If his family votes for him I would be surprised," he boasted.

Herbert, a former investment banker, has worked as an aide to former East New York Councilwoman Priscilla Wooten, Brooklyn Heights state Sen. Martin Connor and Downtown town Brooklyn Rep. Ed Towns. Herbert ran in the 2001 primary, came in third with 1,754 votes, way behind James' 5,746 and Davis' 6,691. Wasserman is a member of the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council and a though present appointee to Community Board 9.

He did not return calls for comment.

Little seems to be known about Aszkow, of Fort Greene, who could not be reached for comment by press time.

Davis, who twice challenged Norman for his Assembly seat, has been an outspoken critic of the county party and its leader since replacing the now-limited Mary Pinkert by beating the party-backed James.

Davis also made news late last year, for casting one of the few dissenting votes against last year's 18.5 percent property tax increase, which, likely, in an apparent act of political payback, Miller ejected Davis from his membership on the Cultural Affairs, Libraries & International Interpreting Relations Committee.

His whose district includes the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Museum of Art, Central Library and Botanic Garden, subsequently threatened the speaker with a federal

He may have solidified his base enough in the past two years, however, to beat any first-term candidates for

See DAVIS on page 8



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Court: Leave judges out of politics

By Joel Stashenko
Associated Press Writer

ALBANY, N.Y. — The state's highest court on Tuesday upheld New York's prohibitions again-

st most political activities by judges and candidates for the bench.

The seven-member Court of Appeals ruled unanimously in two separate cases that

while judges have some constitutional free speech rights when seeking office, those must be balanced against the public's right to a fair and unbiased judiciary.

The decisions rearm the

state's Commission on Judicial Conduct when it comes to regulating the political activities of judges and carry extra weight in Brooklyn, where a district attorney says the heels of three years of judicial misconduct, much of which has been linked to the Kings County Democratic Committee, is investigating the system by which judges are selected by the Democratic Party for nomination, a near guarantee of election.

The commission's rules have been in question since last year, when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down state campaign finance laws of Minnesota on campaign statements by judges, saying the rules violated the U.S. Constitution.

A federal judge in New York ruled that the commission's rules dealing with the political conduct of judicial candidates were impermissibly vague.

But the Court of Appeals on Tuesday, ignoring the federal judge's ruling, upheld the state's restrictions on judicial campaign conduct different from the rules thrown out by the Supreme Court in the Minnesota case.

In unruled rulings, New York's top court said there is a compelling interest that judges not engage in campaign activi-

ties that would compromise their judicial positions, or give the appearance of bias.

Precisely because the state has chosen to limit the means of selecting judges, there is a heightened risk that the public, including litigants and the bar, might perceive judges as beholden to a particular political leader or party after they leave the judicial duties, "the court said.

Likewise, it said comments by judicial candidates that indicate how they might rule on issues or regard certain defendants "cannot be tolerated."

"Judges must apply the law fairly and impartially, even if they are not elected to aid particular groups, be it the police, the prosecution or the defense bar," the court said. "Campaign promises that suggest otherwise gravely risk distorting public perception of judicial roles."

Following are state Commission on Judicial Conduct rules on the political activity of judges in New York.

Judges are prohibited from:

- Holding an office or being a leader in a political organization.
- Engaging in partisan political activity outside of his or her own campaign.
- Publicly endorsing or publicly opposing another candidate for public office outside

of his or her own race.

- Attending political gatherings.

- Permitting his or her name to be listed on election materials along with the names of other candidates for elective

public office.

- Personally soliciting campaign funds.
- Making pledges or promises of conduct in office other than the faithful and impartial performance of the duties of the office.
- Making statements that commit or appear to commit the candidate with respect to cases, controversies or issues that are likely to come before the court.

— with Brooklyn Papers staff



Bloomie in Greene

Mayor Michael Bloomberg (left) visited the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene on Flatbush Avenue Extension in Fort Greene June 5 to discuss health policy affecting New Yorkers. Joining him are Surgeon General Dr. Richard Carmona (center) and city Health Commissioner Dr. Thomas R. Frieden.



New Bar prez

Gregory Cerrone (second from left) was sworn in as president of the Brooklyn Bar Association June 3 by Judge Anthony Cutrona as his children — Greg Jr., Alessandra and Francesca — and wife, Lisa, look on.

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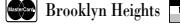
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Using their heads

Muscle gives way to gray matter in chess tourney

By Jotham Sederstrom
for The Brooklyn Papers

Murrow team finished eighth in the National Chess Championships in Charlotte, N.C.

Dmitry Minnevich, a Russian-born 17-year-old and one of the nation's top players, finished in third place, winning three games and settling for a draw at the Scholastic championship. Alexander Lenderman, 13, a junior high national champion from Brooklyn, took first place here, winning all four of his matches.

"Considering we're city and state champs this year, winning it wasn't much of a surprise," said Eliot Weiss, who also teaches calculus and geometry. "But Brooklyn Tech is a tough team, very tough. I was born in Brooklyn and grew up in Brooklyn. So it's an honor to be the Brooklyn champs."

Long established in the Murrow and Manhattan Chess-In-The-Schools, the event's sponsors began hosting the Scholastic Chess Championships in Brooklyn only three years ago, despite the borough's Scholastic Chess Championships having been held for 27 years.

Besides Bobby Fischer, who grew up in Crown Heights, Brooklyn has been home to Maurice Ashley, the first black grandmaster, and chess clubs still flourish in neighborhood Brighter Beach.

Then there's Park Slope's Fabiano Caruana, who at 10 is ranked No. 1 in the country for players under 12 and is mentored by Bruce Pandolfini, the chess master who taught Michael Jackson.

"Years ago there was nothing for kids," Weiss recalled. "And when there were, they had to pay."

Chess-In-The-Schools is a nonprofit that has been teaching the basics to kids in all five boroughs, began in 1986 with a handful of instructors at half a dozen elementary schools. By 1999, the program had 160 public and private schools and more than 38,000 kids. The theory behind the program, said Stephen Herz, the organization's program director, is that chess helps develop critical thinking skills.

"Chess promotes problem-solving skills, socialization and self-esteem," said Herz. "These

three things are sorely needed in many of the kids we work with in the inner-city public school system."

Harirzi, who recorded one win and one loss for the day, admitted that compared to some of the players, he was a far cry from Mikhail Tal, one of his favorite players.

"I made up one of my opening moves, but I haven't come up with a name for it yet," he said.

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June 17, 10:00 AM
Americana Rest. (Bi-Lingual)
6501 7th Ave.
Btwn. 65th & 66th St.

BROOKLYN

June 19, 10:00 AM
Caravale Restaurant
1910 Ave. M
Btwn. 19th & Ocean Ave.

BROOKLYN

July 8, 9:30 AM
Junior's Restaurant
386 Flatbush Ave.
Corner of DeKalb Ave.

BROOKLYN

July 9, 10:00 AM
Del Rio Diner
166 Kings Hwy.
Cross St./W. 12th St.

BROOKLYN

July 10, 10:00 AM
Tiffany Diner
9904 4th Ave.
Cross St./99th St.

BROOKLYN

July 11, 10:00 AM
Lindenwood Diner
2870 Linden Blvd.
Btwn. 78th & Amber St.

BROOKLYN

July 15, 10:00 AM
Kellogg's Diner (Bi-Lingual)
518 Metropolitan Ave.
Cross St./Union Ave.

BROOKLYN

July 16, 10:00 AM
Perry's Restaurant
3482 Nostrand Ave.
Btwn. Ave. U & V

BROOKLYN

July 17, 10:00 AM
Vegas Diner
11916 86th St.
Cross St./16th Ave.

BROOKLYN

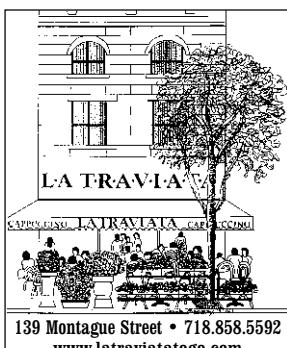
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* Fortune Magazine, March 3, 2003

Pickax attack on Court

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

POLICE BLOTTER

A 47-year-old man alleged he wielded a pickax, attacking two men on Court Street with a pickax.

According to police, the suspect charged a 48-year-old man at 4 p.m., between Livingston and Schermerhorn streets, and struck him on the back with a pickax.

As another man attempted to help the victim, the suspect allegedly raised the pickax over his head, scaring the man away.

Police arrived and arrested the suspect and charged him with assault.

The victim's injuries were

not life threatening but the extent of his injuries could not be determined by press time.

Jukebox break

A burglar got more than a ditty out of the jukebox of a bar on Atlantic Avenue between Court and Livingston streets.

According to police, between 7:30 p.m. on June 1 and noon the following day, the

police arrested the suspect and charged him with assault.

Burglar

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Bergen knifepoint mug

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Two women were about to enter their building on Bergen Street, between Fourth and Fifth avenues, at around 10:15 p.m. on June 5, when they were confronted by a menacing mugger wielding a kitchen knife.

"Give me your wallets," he demanded.

The thief grabbed the woman's purse and fled on Fourth Avenue. One victim, 25, lost \$40, identification, credit cards, a cell phone and keys while the other woman, 24, lost \$40.

Game over

While one of its top-selling games, "Grand Theft Auto," makes a pastime of stealing, looting and wreaking havoc, a Sony PlayStation 2 found itself on the losing end of a larceny.

A man, 45, left his home on 10th Street, between Third and Fourth avenues, at around 9 p.m. on June 5. He returned seven hours later to find his front window pushed in and miscellaneous property fished, including a Sony PlayStation, Xbox Gamestation, a digital camera, \$300 and a silver ring.

Driver's seat

A burglar copped a squat, allegedly from a 2003 Mitsubishi Lancer parked on Prospect Park West, at the corner of First Street.

According to police, the thief pried open the doors and stole the two front doors, the rear door at \$5,000, and the car's interior. The victim had parked the car at 9 p.m. on June 5 and returned at 8:30 a.m. the following day to find his car had been unseated.

GAP mug

A man was sitting in the Grand Army Plaza subway station at 5:35 a.m. on June 5 when he was pelted by a was set upon by a mugger.

The victim, 32, said the robber approached and put a shopping bag next to him. When he looked up, the man said, "Don't look at my face."

The victim handed over \$45 and the thief fled the station.

Park bike theft

A 14-year-old boy was robbed of his bicycle in Prospect Park on June 3 while riding near the boathouse at around 3 p.m.

The assailant punched him

POLICE BLOTTER

in the face, pushed him from his bike and then fled with the boy's bicycle, according to police.

Urban cowboy

A Park Slope man was upstairs around 10:30 p.m. on May 23 when he heard noises on the floor above him.

The victim, 61, parked her vehicle on Carroll Street, between Sixth and Seventh avenues, at around 5:30 a.m. She returned to her car at 8 a.m. to find the headlights pulled and the car damaged.

The first floor had been undergoing renovations so he went down to investigate and saw that the plywood blocking the entrance had been torn down and a man in a baseball cap and cowboy boots was standing just outside the building with the victim's tools in his hand.

The thief giddily-upped and fled to the entrance, he turned toward 15th Street.

The victim pursued but didn't catch the wrangler. He did, however, retrieve his tools on the corner of 15th Street and Fifth Avenue.

No headlights

The halogen headlights were pulled from a 2003 Nissan Maxima on June 4.

Cops nab robber

The Brooklyn Papers

Police apprehended a suspected bank robber this week hours after he allegedly struck an Astoria Federal Savings Bank on Fifth Avenue between Ninth and 10th streets.

According to police, Vincent Poole, 46, of Brighton Beach, walked into the Astoria Federal Savings Bank on 5th Avenue on June 9 and passed the teller a note demanding money.

The teller refused, police said, and the bandit eventually gave up and fled without any cash.

An informant's tip led police to Poole and he was arrested at his home at 9 p.m. on June 9.

Poole was wanted for two other bank robberies in Sheepshead Bay one on June 5 at a Richmond Bank and Trust, which netted \$1,100, and another on June 6, at a Staten Island Bank and Trust in which he allegedly escaped with \$2,500.

—Patrick Gallahue

Club rage

An angry motorist clubbed his car's door handle and lock device on June 2 at 6 a.m. on Flatbush Avenue Extension at Concord Street, smashing a the driver's side window, hitting the driver in the head and arm and striking a passenger on the arm. Police charged a suspect with assault.



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Gay Salisbury & Laney Salisbury
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150 55th Street

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Exercising their minds

Muscle gives way to gray matter in boro chess tourney

By Jotham Soderstrom
for The Brooklyn Papers

Mehdi Harizzi, a sixth-grader at the Brooklyn New School in Cobble Hill, leaned forward, entranced by the afternoon games unfolding before his eyes.

Draped in an all-black tracksuit, the 13-year-old watched the action from underneath a black folding chair in the New York City College of Technology. But Harizzi wasn't marveling over slum-slanks and 3-point shots. Instead it was opening moves and endgames that caught his attention.

"I like all types of sports," said Harizzi. "But you need something to work your mind, not just your body. That's why I play chess."

For record, Harizzi considers Games of Kings as more than a pastime.

And judging by the tough competition, so do his peers. Along with Harizzi, more than 275 kids competing in the May 22 Scholastic Chess Championships don't mind chess doesn't just for grasping intellects.

Open to Brooklyn-area students of all ages and levels of skill, the event attracted kindergarteners from Canarsie and high schoolers from Highline.

"Without chess in schools there wouldn't be as many kids playing the game," said Eliot Weiss, a coach at Edward R. Murrow High School, who added that chess can be done after school.

Murrow, which fields the top-ranked chess team in New York, placed first among high schools at the tournament, followed by Fort Greene's Brooklyn Tech. The wins marks the team's third consecutive victory at the tournament, no surprise considering that in April the Murrow team finished eighth in the National Chess Championships in Charlotte, N.C.

Dmitry Minin, a Russian-born 17-year-old and one of the school's top players, finished in third place, winning three games and settling for one draw. At the scholastic championship, Alexander Lendelman, 13, from a high school champion from IS 228 in Gravesend, took first-place honors, winning all four of his matches.

"Considering we're city and state champs this year, we're not surprised," said Weiss, who also teaches calculus at Murrow. "Brooklyn Tech is a tough team, very tough. I was born in Brooklyn and grew up in Brooklyn, so it's an honor to be the Brooklyn team."

Long established in the Bronx and Manhattan, Chess-



Aleksandr Pelekhaty, of PS 228, competes in the seventh- and eighth-grade group during the chess championship.

In-The-Schools, the event's sponsor, began the Scholastic Chess Championships in Brooklyn only three years ago, despite the borough's storied connection to the game.

Besides Bobby Fischer, who grew up in Crown Heights, and Maurice Ashley, the big black grandmaster, and chess clubs still thrive in neighborhoods like Brighton Beach.

Then there's Park Slope's Family Camera, who at 10 is ranked No. 1 in the country. For players under 12 and is mentored by Bruce Pandolfini, the chess master who taught Fischer.

"Years ago there was nothing for kids," Weiss recalled. "And where there was, they had to travel."

Chess-In-The-Schools, a nonprofit that has been teaching the basics to kids in all five boroughs began in 1986, with a handful of instructors at neighborhood elementary schools. By 1999, the program reached 160 public and private schools and more than 38,000 kids. The theory behind the program, said Steven Herx, the organization's program director, is that chess helps develop critical thinking skills.

"Chess promotes problem-solving skills, socialization and self esteem," said Herx.

For Erick Manigat, one of Xavier's star pupils, the game was

"These three things are sorely missed in many of the kids we work with in the inner-city public school system."

Harizzi, who has moved on to the chess tourney for the day, admitted that, compared to some of the players, he was a far cry from Mikhail Tal, one of his favorite players.

Although he learned how to play several years ago when he was 6, Harizzi, who is 10, at Prospect Park, Harizzi wasn't serious about the game until last year, when he joined an after-school program. Now, he said, chess is as much a part of his life as basketball, another favorite pastime.

"I have a lot of fun with it," he said. "I like the idea of making use of my opening moves, but I haven't come up with a name for it yet," he said.

Daphne Xavier, a fifth-grade teacher at PS 276 in Canarsie, said that if nothing else, chess does wonders for her students, who had never thought possible: here her students away from the video games.

The 28-year-old teacher, who learned how to play chess just three years ago, said she was astonished to see her four students, running wild earlier that day, suddenly quiet down in the rows of black-and-white checkered boards. "I've never seen them this quiet," she said.

"It's like a tonic," said Herx of the near-silent gymnasium. "You can feel the tension. The level of concentration is really, really intense. You can almost feel how beneficial chess is to these kids."

For Erick Manigat, one of Xavier's star pupils, the game was

exercise in memorization. Wrapping his fingers around a white plastic pawn, the third-grader made his first winning move, placing him to advance him to the second round of the tournament. In the second game, he defeated a girl from Midwood's PS 315 in eight moves.

In the third, however, the 9-year-old took on a challenge from PS 39 in Park Slope. Manigat, who finished eighth out of 33 players in the K-3 section, nevertheless expressed regret about his showing: "Our teacher taught us how to win in four moves," he said. "But I forgot some of the moves."

The winners

Grades K-3

Individuals:
1st: Vinmeet Narar, PS 39
2nd: Park Slope
3rd: PS 198 (East Flatbush)

Schools:

1st: PS 39
2nd: PS 198 (East Flatbush)
3rd: PS 315 (Midwood)

Schools:

1st: PS 39
2nd: Brooklyn New School (Carroll Gardens)
3rd: PS 276 (Canarsie)

Fourth Grade

Individuals:
1st: Christopher Murden, PS 308 (Bedford-Stuyvesant)
2nd: Dallas Miles, PS 52 (Sheephead Bay)
3rd: William Scott, PS 308

Schools:

1st: PS 308; 2nd: PS 52
3rd: PS 34 (Greenpoint)

Fifth Grade

Individuals:
1st: Christopher Murden, PS 308 (Bedford-Stuyvesant)
2nd: Dallas Miles, PS 52 (Sheephead Bay)
3rd: William Scott, PS 308

Schools:

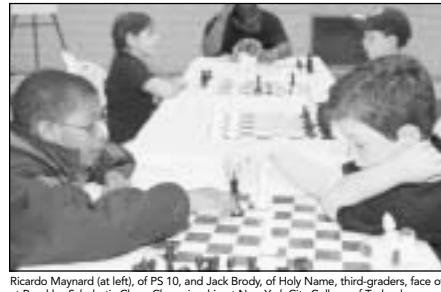
1st: PS 39
2nd: PS 180 (Borough Park)
3rd: PS 198 (East Flatbush)

Sixth Grade

Individuals:
1st: Yevgeniy Israfilov, IS 228 (Grand Concourse)
2nd: Cesar Calendari, IS 318 (Williamsburg)
3rd: Kenny Liu, IS 318

Schools:

1st: IS 318
2nd: IS 228



Ricardo Maynard (at left), of PS 10, and Jack Brody, of Holy Name, third-graders, face off at Brooklyn Scholastic Chess Championship at New York City College of Technology.

3rd: IS 171 (Cypress Hills)

Grades 7-8

Individuals:
1st: Dario Mass, IS 318
2nd: Jeffrey Wang, IS 318
3rd: Nick Martinez, IS 318

Schools:

1st: IS 318; 2nd: PS 308;
3rd: IS 228

Grades 9-12

Individuals:
1st: Christopher Murden, IS 228
2nd: Boris Gendovich, Brooklyn Tech (Fort Greene)
3rd: Dmitry Minievich, Edward R. Murrow (Midwood)

Schools:

1st: Edward R. Murrow
2nd: Brooklyn Tech
3rd: IS 228

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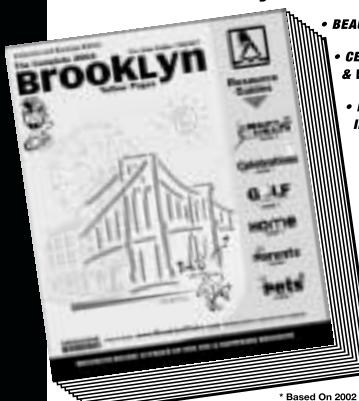


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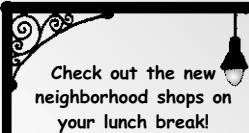
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Park buzz aplenty at Sunset Shangri-la

By Patrick Gallahue

The Brooklyn Papers

If last year's Brooklyn Bridge Park Coalition's annual Shangri-la was a celebration of the individual excitement caused by the concrete commitment of \$150 million by city and state officials, this year featured the relaxed expectancy that Brooklyn Bridge Park is going to happen.

Elected officials and guests, who paid \$75 to \$100 a ticket to attend the Sunset Shangri-la in Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park, reiterated their excitement over the planned 1.3-mile commercial and recreational development between Jay and Atlantic Avenues — along the waterfront.

"I predict that it will become, after Prospect park ... the greatest place in the region to be in," said Borough President Marty Markowitz.

"Brooklyn Bridge Park will be an icon," said Marianne Koval, the executive director of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Coalition. "It's our future."

The evening's honorees included Michael "Buzz" O'Keefe, proprietor of the River Cafe, and Olga Bloom, artistic director of Bargemusic, both at Fulton Landing.

"I've only one thing to say, one thing."

Bloom said, "Beauty makes life bearable."

Major Michael Bloomberg, who was also expected as a guest of honor but did not arrive, and emissaries from the city Economic Development Corporation and the Parks Department accepted a chocolate rendering of Brooklyn Bridge Park, presented by DUMBO's Jacques Tardieu in his place.

In the crowd, over wine and hors d'oeuvres, advancements in the park plan were discussed, and a buzz resounded over the Watchtower Society's unexpected announcement last week that they are selling 360 Furman St. None of the planners was willing to state concrete ideas for the property but acknowledged that it has stimulate interest (see story Page 2).

The inclusion of Pier 6 in the Environmental Impact Statement created additional excitement among park advocates.

Two days of rain nearly caused the fundraiser to be a washout but Koval enlisted Engine Company 224, on Hicks Street at Joralemon Street, to host the soggy party.

The event drew 700 people and grossed \$140,000 for the Brooklyn Bridge Park Coalition, to support educational programs associated with the park and interim uses until it is built, such as the free summer Brooklyn Bridge Park Film Series in Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park.



Rosemarie Markgraf (president of the Brownstone Brooklyn Republican Club), Borough President Marty Markowitz and Valerie King (social chair of the Club) enjoy the Sunset Shangri-la at Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park Friday.

Medina and Brian Kerrigan, Brooklyn Heights residents, take a twirl on the dance floor.



The Atlas Soul band provides music for the party.

Brooklyn's first lady, Jamie Markowitz (at left) and Rep. Nydia Velazquez (second from right) join Sara and David Sharps from the Waterfront Museum in Red Hook.

School districts to stay open — on paper

By Deborah Kolben

The Brooklyn Papers

While the state legislature granted Mayor Michael Bloomberg greatly expanded control of the city's schools last year, some legislators have stepped up to challenge his reforms.

One of those challenges was met this week when the Department of Education settled a lawsuit brought by state Sen. Ken Kruger and Rep. David Padavan, a member of the Assembly who opposed the move from instituting his swelling school reforms.

While both sides claimed victory, it appears nothing much has changed.

Kruger filed a lawsuit against the city in March claiming that the mayor should not eliminate the city's 32 school districts without approval from the legislature.

Under Bloomberg's system,

the current school districts will be replaced by 10 regional divisions, guided by 10 regional superintendents.

Those regional superintendents will oversee a group of schools, and the 10 regional superintendents, who oversee no more than a dozen schools.

"In defiance of the law, the mayor tried to steamroll this plan through. But today the parents and children of New York City have won a huge battle against an out-of-control administration," Kruger told The Brooklyn Paper after the settlement Tuesday.

The Kruger settlement mirrors a deal brokered last month between Schools Chancellor Joel Klein and state Sen. Frank Padavan, a member of the Assembly.

Klein agreed to maintain an office in each school district and appoint a district administrator, selected from among

the 113 Local Instructional Supervisors, for each office.

In exchange, Padavan agreed to dump legislation had introduced in the state Senate aimed at blocking the school superintendents.

Under this week's settlement, the community district administrators will be called superintendents.

The new district offices will contain three employees — a supervisor, a parent support officer and a clerical worker.

"The key point is that we have eliminated the bloated district bureaucracies while also assuring a point of access for parents in the districts by having a point of contact administrator," Kruger told The Brooklyn Paper after the settlement Tuesday.

The Kruger settlement mirrors a deal brokered last month between Schools Chancellor Joel Klein and state Sen. Frank Padavan, a member of the Assembly.

Klein agreed to maintain an office in each school district and appoint a district administrator, selected from among

that it turned the agreement had worked out with Klein into a "legally appropriate" and binding deal.

When asked how this deal was reached, the one brokered by Padavan, Kruger asked, "What agreement?"

"Without court intervention this mayor would never abide by the law," Kruger said.

"There's a compliance factor which says that if they're in compliance, we'll have a chance to succeed," said Brooklyn Heights-Downtown Brooklyn Councilman David Yassky.

"I did not support that lawsuit and I'm glad to see it settled and done with," he added. "We need dramatic change. The things that we have to plan to cut the administrative bloat and move those resources to the schools themselves is the absolute right way to go."

Following Tuesday's deci-

tion in the right direction because no one person can have all of the answers when it comes to educating more than a million students," said Markowitz.

"While a host of Brooklyn parents signed on to Kruger's action, not everyone was Tuesday's decision as a victory.

"I don't agree with everything in the mayor's [education] plan, but I would like the mayor to have a chance to succeed," said Brooklyn Heights-Downtown Brooklyn Councilman David Yassky.

"I did not support that lawsuit and I'm glad to see it settled and done with," he added. "We need dramatic change. The things that we have to plan to cut the administrative bloat and move those resources to the schools themselves is the absolute right way to go."

Following Tuesday's deci-

sion, Klein announced the new 113 Local Instructional Supervisors. The list is posted on the Education Department's Web site at www.nycschools.edu.

Districts 14, 15 and 16, including Brooklyn Heights, Park Slope, Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens, Sunset Park, Red Hook, Kensington, Windsor Terrace, Boerum Hill, Downtown Brooklyn, Fort Green, DUMBO, Prospect Heights, Crown Heights, Williamsburg, Greenpoint, and portions of Bedford-Stuyvesant and Crown Heights, will become Division 8, with 82,593 students.

Brooklyn Heights-District 15, will head the new District 15, which includes state Sen. Marty Golden and Borough President Marty Markowitz, presented proclamations.

While the rally have kept the revelers away, Wayne Reyes, of the Jesus Revival Center, located near Kings Plaza shopping mall, looked at the day's weather in a more positive light.

Peering up at the drizzle and fog, Reyes said Jesus must be looking out for them.

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GARSON...

Continued from page 1

She eventually wore an electronic recording device to help build the case against Garson but she declined on Monday to detail when evidence she obtained in the course of the investigation.

Hynes collected 1,009 audiotapes and 60 videotapes during the investigation of Garson, which he turned over to the state's defense team on Monday.

Garson's attorney, Ronald Fischetti, vowed to fight the charges and proclaimed his client's innocence.

The诉讼 against Garson alleges that on Oct. 9, 2001, and March 10, 2003, Garson accepted gifts such as cash and cigars to advise Paul Simonsky on how to argue cases.

Simonsky is now cooperating with prosecutors and could get off scot-free in return.

"Basically, the case [against Simonsky] was dismissed

without prejudice, which means that it's off the court calendar but the charges could be reopened," a Hynes spokesman said.

In the district attorney's office it said, however, that it likely Simonsky would plead guilty to a misdemeanor after the Garson case is adjudicated.

Fischetti has argued that it was Simonsky who made erroneous claims to clients that he was able to bribe the judge but never actually did so.

Others indicted in the case are Nissim Elman, who prosecutors say brokered Garson's verdict; Levi, a litigator who allegedly agreed to pay over \$10,000 to Elman to secure the desired outcome of his trial; and Post, the Post.

Published reports say Ruditsky raised questions because he had come in fourth in a four-way primary for Civil Court before being elevated to Supreme. In the case of Hynes, the Post reported on Tuesday that sources allege the Brooklyn Democrats, bragged about having paid \$50,000 to have his son put on the bench.

Witnesses of her child, and Weitzman, are looking into political contributions.

Hurkin-Torres did not respond to the Brooklyn Papers' calls for comment and Ruditsky's office said the justice was "not available." The district attorney's office also declined to comment on the two

Sources told the Post that investigators are looking into political contributions.

Hurkin-Torres did not respond to the Brooklyn Papers' calls for comment and Ruditsky's office said the justice was "not available." The district attorney's office also declined to comment on the two

Continued from page 1

Last year, she campaigned against Norman, chairman of the Kings County Democratic Committee.

Garson was one of few endorsements, including that of another party outsider, First Green Councilman James Davis, as well as the New York Times and the Daily News, she was soundly defeated in the primary and general election on the Independence Party line.

Neither Roper nor her attorney, Barry Fallick, returned calls

to the Post. While Ward's complaint was made to Hynes' office, it was removed by the Office of Court Administration, which appointed Meenah Frier as special prosecutor, according to a DA spokesman. Frier did not return calls for comment.

Sources close to Roper were stunned by the reports of the indictment and charged that it was politically motivated.

"You against Hynes, you run against Clarence you get indicted," said a Hynes' attorney.

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

(718) 834-9350 • June 16, 2003

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FESTIVAL

Williamsburg Bridge celebrates 100 years

DINING

A review of Fort Greene's Scopello

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BOOKS

Harry returns

After three long years, lonely Muggles can finally get another fix of Harry Potter and his gang of school cohorts. The latest fantasy novel by JK Rowling, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" (Scholastic, \$17.99), with illustrations by Mary GrandPre, will go on sale at midnight on Friday, June 20.

Barnes & Noble (106 Court St. at Sixth Street) in Brooklyn, (718) 246-4996 will have a midnight Magic party, beginning at 11 pm, with entertainment courtesy of Justin the Magician.

The Park Slope Barnes & Noble (1270 Avenue Ave. at Sixth Street, (718) 246-4996) will also sell copies at midnight and offer a Harry Potter Look-A-Like Contest, face painting, wizard hat making and giveaways beginning at 11 pm.

Both locations will have copies available for sale, but only customers who have pre-ordered the book are guaranteed a copy at midnight.

—Lisa J. Curtis

Designs of the times

Meet Brooklyn's own cutting-edge craftsmen at DUMBO furnishings show

By Lisa J. Curtis
The Brooklyn Papers

Whether you go for ideas on how to make the most of your home's tight quarters, you go to hire the designer who can custom make the piece of furniture you've been fantasizing about, or you go just to order a set of mugs, Brooklyn Designs has something to offer anyone who has a home, office or home office.

The home furnishings show, an initiative of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, will fill St. Ann's Warehouse in DUMBO June 13-15 with the work of dozens of Brooklyn-based artisans displaying lighting, linens, rugs, furniture and decorative accessories.

Exhibitors include:

- Brooklyn Navy Yard-based furniture designer Robert Martin, who creates an assortment of sleek furnishings including steel-and-glass dining tables, workstations and garden furniture.
- Williamsburg-based Milder Office, whose artists fashion products for the office, home, institutional and retail environments.

Bushwick-based Elseware atelier, whose artists don't shy from injecting a bit of humor into the home, like the aquarium-toilet combo, the "Aquarius." Williamsburg-based interior designer Dominic Gaspary, who has also created his own contemporary furniture collection

recent and current projects, including an artificial island in Graz, Austria, an adjustable gallery in New York, and a clothing store in Tokyo.

On June 13, the show will be open from 11 am to 7 pm. At noon, Julie Parchesky, director of product development for West Elm, will present a talk on "Adding the Contemporary Touch." West Elm is a subsidiary of Williams Sonoma that operates nearly 100 stores nationwide of contemporary home furnishings out of 55 Washington St. in DUMBO.

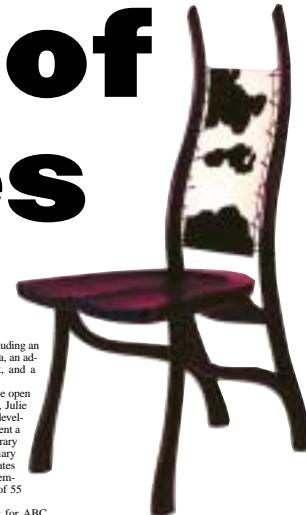
At 4 pm, the senior buyer for ABC Carpet & Home, Chris Kraig, will talk on the topic of "The New Baroque." The Carpet & Home store took a 10-year lease on 40,000 square feet of retail space in 20 Jay St. at Plymouth Street in DUMBO last October.

At 4 pm, a Furniture New York panel discussion will address "Commissioning Work: The Rewards and Mysteries of Custom Furniture." Furniture New York is a not-for-profit organization that supports the city's furniture trade. Led by moderator and "furnituremaker" Michael Puryear, designers Robert Martin and Scott Braun will present

some of their recent custom projects and discuss the process of creating them.

Brian, vice president and programs chair of Furniture New York, manufactures his furniture in East Williamsburg. He believes the public needs to be educated about — and encouraged to — explore the commissioning process. Braun says most designers not only do custom work but also enjoy it.

"We've been planning to do some kind of event trying to help demystify the custom commissioning process," Braun told GO Brooklyn. "People often don't even know I can do [custom work]. If a client likes someone's aesthetic, they should pursue it. Fully 90 percent of us — if not more — derive most of our income from custom commissioned work. We are will-



Furnishings festival: Brooklyn-based home furnishings designers and manufacturers will display their wares at this weekend's Brooklyn Designs show. Clockwise from top right: Scott Braun's "bowl," a calfskin and ebonized mahogany chair; Kea Carpets and Kilim's high-end rugs and tapestries; Walter Ross's "Love Chair," fashioned from Italian-wool felt and iron with a gunmetal finish; and "Muggins," Daniel Harper's ceramic mugs from the Elseware design collection.



ing to work with people."

Braun's 10,000-square-foot shop is open by appointment.

"Talk to the designer, tell them about your needs, what's important to you," said Braun. "For some, it's budget; others longevity; for others, high style. These

longevity; for others, high style.

Afternoon fling

At the Brooklyn Brewery Saturday, food & beer enthusiasts spent time with the ones they love

By Tina Barry

for The Brooklyn Papers

Rain and they shall come," could be the motto for 300 determined nosherers who braved lousy weather for a day of grazing and boozing in Williamsburg.

The June 7 event was the fourth annual "Critic's Choice Summer Beer and Food Festival" at the Brooklyn Brewery on North 11th Street.

Jointly sponsored by the Brooklyn Brewery and the American Institute of Wine & Food (AIWF), the festival included 20 critically acclaimed Brooklyn restaurants and 25 domestic and international breweries.

"We see beer as being part of the same culture as food," said the AIWF's founder, explained Tom Potter, CEO of the Brooklyn Brewery and the chapter chair of AIWF-NY.

The AIWF was the brainchild of Julia "French Chef" Child, Robert Mondavi of the Robert Mondavi Foundation and the Real Gourmet Wine Club. They formed the institute to "promote health and well-being through the enjoyment of good food and drink and the fellowship that comes from eating together around the table."

Paying heed to the AIWF's principles, crafters participating in Saturday's festival, sampled each other's dishes and dined roamed from table to table nibbling on specialties and sipping great brews.

Previous festivals spilled out onto the closed-off North 11th Street with a stage set up for the bands and a golf tournament with a hole-in-one. Saturday the rain was so heavy and steady Saturday that the band, chefs and guests all stayed inside the Brewery's cavernous tasting room. Bravos souls who insisted on dining al fresco snacked under rain-soaked umbrellas and sipped great brews.

Previous festivals spilled out onto the



The Brooklyn Papers / Lynne Koenigsberg

gues-danced to the foot-stomping country tunes of the Brooklyn Brown Grass Band.

Even the chefs whose kitchens regularly produce more haute than down-home, beer-friendly fare rose to the occasion.

Saul Bolton, of Restaurant Saul in Cobble Hill, served up a tender braised pork belly surrounded by peach beans given a jolt of refreshing sweetness by peach salsa. Only a hearty beer like the Brooklyn Brewery's Black Chocolate Stout, with its deep, bitter chocolate and coffee aromas, could accompany the big flavors in Bolton's dish.

Grill master Laura Taylor, of DUMBO's Superfine restaurant, used a bitter end leaf as a canopy for smoky, jumbo shrimp. A dollop of the mysterious "Green Goddess" dressing lent the deli-

cious mouthful a retro spin.

Zakary Pelaccio, of the newly opened Chickenbone Cafe, in Williamsburg, served two bruschettas — a spicy version made with shaved Polish kielbasa, dill and pickles — and another of subtly flavored pork confit (meat cooked and stored in its own fat) that was cooked down to an uncanny, purée-like topping. A clever young Brooklyn Pilsner helped to cut the richness of the pork.

Adding to the good-southern-on-bread category, Sam Barbieri of Pete's Waterfront Ale House in Brooklyn Heights, placed a slice of his award-winning barbecued beef brisket on brioche rolls and served the sandwich with a side of sweet potato hash.

On a lighter note, Caroline Fidanza, of Diner in Williamsburg, served slices of French baguette with tangy artichokes



Brooklyn bites: At Saturday's Critic's Choice Summer Beer and Food Festival at the Brooklyn Brewery, chef-owner Adam Rose was on hand to serve his Brooklyn clam chowder. (At left) A Brooklyn Brewery employee dispenses another round of Lager.

marinated in olive oil and lemon juice for a refreshing hors d'oeuvre.

Spins on the sandwich included the crisp mini-tostada topped with grilled shrimp and mango salsa from Prospect Height's Tavern on Dean; and the luscious duck and mushroom samosa from Ozon's Dish in Williamsburg. East of Joshua Tree, the smoky, smoky phyllo was filled with sweetened duck, earthy mushrooms and mozzarella; paprika aioli added a smoky note to Phyllo's original dish.

Two chefs cooked to a different drummer. Adam Rose, of Soma in Williamsburg, was the single participant to offer something other than clam chowder made with Brooklyn Brewery's Lager — with a side of goat cheese and pecan salad tossed in a pleasantly sharp dressing.

Thomas Ferlesch, of Thomas Beisl, an Austrian restaurant in Fort Greene, was the lone chef to serve dessert. His

handi's song, "Mexicali," "Friend of the Devil," and "Stella Blue" were three that added spice to his contribution.

Aaron Bashy, of the Minnow in Park Slope, another restaurant specializing in simple fish preparations, lined a plate with braised cabbage and potato slaw then topped it with a diminutively sized, boldly flavored bluefish cakes. Creamy paprika aioli added a smoky note to Bashy's original dish.

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DINING

Chickenbone Cafe (177 S. Fourth St. at Roslyn Street in Williamsburg). For reservations, call (718) 302-2663.

Dinner (85 Broadway at Berry Street in Williamsburg). For reservations, call (718) 486-3077.

Minnow (442 Ninth St. at Seventh Avenue in Williamsburg). For reservations, call (718) 302-5300.

Ozon's Dish (9 Berry St. at North Ninth Street in Williamsburg). For reservations, call (718) 599-5596.

Restaurant Saul (140 Smith St. between Bedford and Franklin Streets in Cobble Hill). For reservations, call (718) 935-9844.

Soma (192 Grand St. at Bedford Avenue in Williamsburg). For reservations, call (718) 302-9800.

Superfine (126 Front St. at Pearl Street in Williamsburg). For reservations, call (718) 243-9005.

Tavern on Dean (755 Dean St. at Union Street in Williamsburg). For reservations, call (718) 638-3326.

Thomas Beisl (25 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene). For reservations, call (718) 222-5800.

Waterfront Ale House (155 Atlantic Avenue in Williamsburg). For reservations, call (718) 522-3794.

Whim Oyster Bar (243 Degraw St. at Clinton Hill and Nostrand Avenue). For reservations, call (718) 797-2017.

For more information about events at the Whim Oyster Bar, call (718) 797-2017.

For more information about the American Institute of Wine and Food, call (800) 274-2493, or visit their Web site at www.aiwf.com.

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Milchrahmstrudel, more of a feather-light souffle than a traditional strudel, was made with a delicate cheese and served atop a delicate of sweet and tart apples and raisins.

It ended the feast on an elegant note. Beer and souffle didn't cut it, but the clean apple taste of Original Sin Hard Cider, pressed in New York City, paired nicely.

And there was so much more: mussels, Jan's leek pita, pheasant with figs and roast chicken salad. There was beer brewed in Maine, Vermont and Baltimore; beer brewed by Trappist monks in Belgium; German rye beers; and Japanese brews flavored with orange peel, nutmeg and cardamom. There were piles of hard cider, calvados, sales and lagers from good of St. Louis,傅's Root Beer.

If critics determine an event's success, then all 300 "critics" who attended the fourth annual "Critic's Choice Summer Beer and Food Festival," would give the production a unanimous thumbs up.

WHERE To GO...

Continued from previous page...

feature the Williamsburg Bridge. 6:30 to 9 pm. Galapagos Art Space, 190 North Sixth St. (718) 625-0380. Free.

Galapagos Art Space: Black Diamond: "Black Diamond," 5:30 pm. 190 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188. Free.

Film Series: *Coney Island*

Tonight: burlesque shorts featuring Burlesque Queen. 7 pm. \$10 advance tickets on sale at Spectrum. 8 to 11 pm. 402 20th Street. (718) 236-1111.

Brooklyn Pride: Entertainer, comedian, and actress. \$10 advance tickets on sale at Spectrum. 8 to 11 pm. 402 20th Street. (718) 236-1111.

Comedy: Brooklyn Brew-Ha-Ha

At The Boudoir. \$15 advance tickets. 9:30 pm. 273 Smith St. (718) 628-8878.

SUN, JUNE 15

Father's Day

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

Brooklyn Botanic Garden: "Botanicals" series. 10 am to 4 pm. 35th Street. (718) 633-2300.

Green-Wood Cemetery: "Tours and talk about Green-Wood's historical, architectural, natural, artistic, horticultural and theatrical appeal." 36 1/2 pm. Meet at the main entrance, 55th Street. (718) 469-5277.

Father's Day Crafts: At Salt Mine. 10 am to 4 pm. 100 Franklin Avenue. (718) 421-2000. Free.

PROSPECT PARK CAROUSEL:

Take a ride on one of the 51 horses, giraffes, reindeers and

dragons. \$1 per ride. Noon to 5 pm. (718) 282-7789.

PERFORMANCES

Saturday, June 14: Brooklyn Park hosts a concert for fathers. Musicians Bob and Eva Gabriel will perform at the Brooklyn Historic House, Flatbush Avenue at Empire Boulevard. (718) 289-7022.

BARGEMUSIC: All Beethoven.

5:30 pm. Fulton Ferry. 190 North Sixth St. (718) 236-1203.

DANCE: Showcase of dance by children of all ages. \$10. 5 pm. Brooklyn Children's Museum, 357 Pearl St. (917) 753-3291.

BAM: Paris National Opera and Les Arts Florissants. 7 pm. 300 Fourth Avenue. (718) 636-4100.

UP OVER: "Up Over" by D'Abreu Jr. Quintet performs.

FATHER'S DAY CRAFTS: At Salt Mine. 10 am to 4 pm. 100 Franklin Avenue. (718) 421-2000. Free.

BLACK BOX SERIES: Annual theater event by The Gallery of the Living. 7 pm. 3rd Street. (718) 469-5277.

FATHER'S DAY CRAFTS: At Salt Mine. 10 am to 4 pm. 100 Franklin Avenue. (718) 421-2000. Free.

COMEDY: "The Wonder Woman Keeps a Secret." 7 pm. See Sat.

PERFORMING ARTS: "A Purple Offering" to the Manhattan skyline. 7 pm. See Sat.

MON, JUNE 16

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

FILM: Watch Club Video presents

"Pulp Fiction." 7 pm. 190 North Sixth St. (718) 236-1203.

YOGA: All levels of experience welcome. \$2 per class. 52 Main Street. (718) 236-4444.

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GULAG FILM: *Cinema Vilnus* Film Series presents *Juris Urbonas*. 7 pm. 190 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

BARBERS BAR: Michael Attar, Anthony Coleman and Jim Pugliese. No cover. Call for time. 3/6 Sat. 7 pm. See Sat.

CHILDREN

Brooklyn Children's Museum: "Family Fun with Me." 10 am to 4 pm. 357 Pearl St. (917) 753-3291.

COMEDY: "The Wonder Woman Keeps a Secret." 8 pm. See Sat.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

FILM: Watch Club Video presents

"North by Northwest." 7 pm. 190 North Sixth St. (718) 236-1203.

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UP OVER JAZZ CAFE: Hip hop music meets jazz. \$10. 9 and 11 pm. 351 Flatbush Ave. (718) 782-5188.

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Help Wanted

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• Excellent communication, writing and organizational skills

• Ability to type 40 wpm

• Detail oriented

Part-time position involves heavy phones, reception and administrative support for attorneys and paralegal staff.

Qualified candidates will be contacted directly. Please send resume with salary history to: hr@bog.com

First Floor, 9201 Forest Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11209, ATT: RGF/S. No phone calls please.

W25

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The image shows a black and white advertisement for Davis & Warshow. At the top, the company name 'DAVIS & WARSHOW' is written in a large, bold, serif font, with a small ampersand between 'DAVIS' and 'WARSHOW'. Below it, the words 'ELEGANCE IN KITCHEN AND BATH' are written in a smaller, all-caps serif font. The bottom half of the image features a close-up of a modern kitchen faucet with a gooseneck spout and a pull-down spray head, mounted on a white tiled backsplash. To the right of the faucet, there is a dark wooden cabinet with a framed picture on top. The lighting creates strong shadows and highlights on the faucet and the tiles.

A photograph of a woman with short brown hair, wearing a red t-shirt and a dark apron, standing in front of a display of various antiques. Behind her are shelves filled with items like glassware, ceramics, and wooden furniture. The shop has warm lighting and a rustic feel.

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A large sign for a tile store. The top half is a blue rectangle with white text: "Large Selection of Ceramic Tile" and a "\$2 off \$15.00" offer. The bottom half is a white rectangle with black text: "YOUR FLOOR CONSULTANT", "THE \$10 CARPET STORE", "Your Friendly Carpet Store", and "Beautiful Selection of Ceramic Tiles for your Floors and Walls".



Global warming

Fort Greene's culinary renaissance continues: Restaurant Gram, an "American bistro," opened on Lafayette Street in February, adding to the area's ever-expanding dining options.

Manager Tracey Grant, the sister of owner-chef Ian A. Gram (Gram derives from his initials), describes the food as "American with French and Asian touches." The chef is an alumnus of Jean-Georges and Bouley in Manhattan, and The River Cafe at Fulton Landing.

Ian's intention, says Tracey, was to "bring a touch of Mediterranean to the heart of the neighborhood. The renovated space has a glass front and is divided into a downstairs bar complete with comfortable leather chairs, and an airy, pale lavender dining room upstairs. Waitress Anna Grundstrom (pictured) delivers elegant cocktails.

Gram's dishes feature global combinations like *branzino* (sea bass) served with basmati rice, bok choy and coconut or mint; *truite au four* with smoked salmon, roasted slices of tomato "petals" and caviar.

To ease our present angst, Gram suggests a civilized, late-afternoon cup of tea in his arbook-lined library. Twenty varieties, including spiced plum and passion fruit, are served from 3 pm to 5 pm.

Restaurant Gram (68 Lafayette Ave., at South Elliott Place) is open Monday through Saturday, 5 pm to 10 pm, \$20-\$24. Tuesdays to Thursdays, the restaurant serves lunch from noon to 2:30 pm, tea from 3 to 5 pm and dinner from 5:30 pm to 11 pm. The kitchen is open until midnight on Fridays. Saturdays and Sundays brunch is served from 11:30 am to 3 pm and dinner is served 5:30 to 11 pm. Closed Mondays. For reservations call (718) 246-1755. —Tina Barry

Taste of Sicily

Scopello restaurant is a welcome Italian newcomer to Fort Greene

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Papers

Scopello doesn't look like other Italian restaurants in Brooklyn. There's no highbrow atmosphere, the setting invites a diner to lean back, sip wine and ease into the evening. While the dining room has its own likeable yet hard-to-place personality, the restaurant's convivial atmosphere is infectious.

On a weekend evening at this new Fort Greene eatery (it opened in February), waiters took the hands of familiar female patrons and walked them to their tables; groups of women drank and ate multi-course dinners, and a huge number tucked under their chairs dug into bowls of pasta. The nascent establishment already feels like a much-loved neighborhood place.

After passing the bar, one enters the high-gloss dining room, punctuated by a large, tall, tiered, backless metal tree-like bar. Wall paper lanterns stained the colors of fall leaves illuminate the tables; jazz lends an upbeat and blessedly quiet background to conversation.

Scopello is named for the Sicilian fishing village where owner Fabrizio Di Miriti spent his childhood summers.

"Our dishes," said Di Miriti, "are influenced by the Greeks, Arabs, the Normans and the Spanish. The Arabs brought saffron and sweet and sour tastes, nuts and couscous."

"Sicily is an island, so there's a lot of fish," says Di Miriti, who imported his mother, Ninni, and uncle Michelangelo Vitale to help them create the menu. A quick glance at their offerings and it's apparent that Scopello isn't another



Fort Greene flavor: Scopello bartender Fay Ku fires off a shot. (At right) The Fort Greene restaurant's grilled octopus salad, *insalata di polpo*.

The Brooklyn Papers/Gregory Meeks

red sauce palace. Sicily's local references are present in the caponata, a sweet and sour eggplant stew. Sardines, another Sicilian staple, are baked and stuffed with bread-crums, raisins and pine nuts; and swordfish "a la Siciliana" are paired with anise-flavored fennel in a refreshing salad.

To welcome diners, a basket of warm, house-made focaccia is placed on the table. That bread — tender and a bit chewy with the deep olive flavor of the oil — is the real thing. A remake of mixed oil focaccia with olives and olive oil with slivers of orange peel come next. Dip a piece of the focaccia into the oil that has absorbed the peel's citrus notes, and it's a delightful way to begin the meal.

On Fridays, Di Miriti receives a

shipment of *burrata delle Murge*, a mozzarella flown in from Puglia, Italy. The outer part of the cheese was barely firm. Not quite set in the center, the cheese oozed when cut. Milk and milky, nuances of fresh cream are present as it warms. Recommended as it warms, too, the serving should feed three or even four and is a deliciously novel way to prime the palate.

If you're not a herring enthusiast, the *farmer's market* of the fish and oyster salad. This mixture of fish and vegetables atop a tangy mix of baby lettuce and fennel was a delight.

Pasta is served at least once a day at Sicilian tables, and it's well represented on Scopello's menu. House-made ravioli stuffed with mushrooms

were exquisite. Each triangle of the dough was thin as lace. The filling was pleasingly chunky and the truffles lent a rich, earthy flavor to the pasta's velvety sauce.

The entrees are served on platters and are a mix of Sicilian classics. At Scopello, two "Flintstones"-sized ribs were cooked until the meat absorbed the lush flavors of the red wine sauce. They were succulent in a be-man, la-la meal on Earth kind of way. But the sauce, though tasty, was overly fatty.

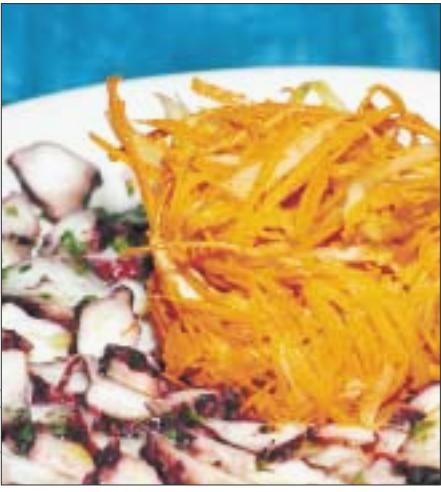
With the sides of green risotto cake, flavored with saffron and arugula, was tepid and too chewy to be considered toothsome.

A better version of the risotto appeared in a pyramid of the creamy grain circled by a special of veal stew with artichokes.

Order it. The meat had more depth than most veal dishes, and those thick slices of tiny artichokes — crisp on the outside and smooth inside — are reason enough to return to the restaurant.

Among an impressive roundup of pastries, is a contender for best spring dessert — a wild berry tart served with nothing more than powdered sugar and a squeeze of caramel. Under a crown of sweet raspberries, the tart is wild berries and blackberries, with a fluffy, lightly sweetened pastic cream. The tart's thin crust was a little cakey, like a cookie from an Italian bakery. It's the sort of simple fruit pastry served all over Italy that one can never seem to get enough of.

How Fort Greene, once the land of take-out food served behind bullet-proof glass, became the second coming of Smith Street, dates back to the first, brave bistro owners who opened their restaurants along the Avenue. A recent spate of photo booth pictures is invigorating Lafayette Avenue with great eateries. One can argue against gentrification, but there's no disagreeing that Scopello is a welcome addition to the neighborhood.



The Brooklyn Papers/Gregory Meeks

DINING

Scopello 63 Lafayette Ave., between Smith and Nostrand Place) accepts Visa, MasterCard and American Express. Pastas: \$11.95. Dinner entrees: \$13.95-\$16.95. For reservations call (718) 632-1100.

The Brooklyn Papers/Gregory Meeks

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